

5 **SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USING
LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY (LNP) TO REDIRECT
TERMINATING CALLS TO A SERVICE NODE**

Abstract of the Invention

10 A system and method are provided for using Local Number
Portability (LNP) and the public switched telephone network (PSTN)
trunks as virtual loop-around trunks. Present invention LNP structures
and processes redirect calls to avoid the creation of loop-around trunks
from calls generated in the local exchange carrier (LEC) requiring services
such as prepaid caller and calling party pays. A virtual trunk switch is
15 created using a Switch Control Point (SCP). Telephone numbers
requiring special services are ported and stored in a LNP database.
Numbers requiring special services are flagged with a LRN that identifies
a special service switch which is either an SSP or an SCP. The LRN
initiates communication between the local exchange switch and the
20 special service switch. Once engaged, the special service switch protocols
create the trunk links. By monitoring these trunk links, the special
service switch is able to monitor the in-band communications, and so
provide the special services. Similar processes are provided using the
LNP to insert either a Service Switching Point (SSP) or an Intelligent
25 Peripheral (IP) in the network trunk to provide services with a fewer
number of switch connections.